



Iowa Department of Public Health
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

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Dear Health Care Provider:

The Iowa Department of Public Health invites you to participate in *Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day* on the second Wednesday of October each year. Domestic violence will affect nearly one-third of American women in their lifetime. Many women will seek help from their health care provider before they will call the police or contact a local shelter. As a health care provider, you are in a unique position to identify and intervene with domestic abuse before it may become serious or fatal.

Each year, a number of hospitals across the state conduct local awareness-raising events. Please consider joining with hundreds of health care facilities across the country and using this event as an opportunity to highlight the resources available to consumers if they are experiencing violence in their family.

The department has created a packet of materials that you may find useful in creating awareness within your facility during the month of October, which is also Domestic Violence Awareness month. We encourage you to contact your local domestic violence program to involve them in the planning or to coordinate events in your community. These items are available on our website and can be downloaded and reproduced for your own use. Some of these items include:

- Smaller-sized (8-1/2 X 11) posters that could be reproduced and laminated for placement on clinic walls or bathroom doors.
- Sample copy for a newsletter article that could be placed in an employee newsletter.
- Sample copy for a payroll stuffer.
- Sample copy for an e-mail message to employees or colleagues.
- Fact sheets on health care and domestic violence.
- A summary of provider screening tips for health care providers (doctors, nurses).

The IDPH webpage address for this information is:
http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/violence_against_women.asp.

Some materials can also be ordered through the Iowa Domestic Abuse Hotline by calling 1-800-942-033. In addition, Futures without Violence (formerly the Family Violence Prevention Fund) offers a Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day Organizing Packet. If you would like to view one or download it online, you can do so by linking to
http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/content/action_center/detail/1130.

Please consider hosting an event—it may change someone's life or even prevent a tragic death. If we can be of any help with ideas or resources, please call the Violence Prevention Coordinator at 515/281-5032 or Project Connect Coordinator at 515/242-6382.